

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01 SAM-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6093

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 3099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR, U.S. POSITION ON FLANK SECURITY

REF: A) STATE 111009; B) USNATO 1954; C) USNATO 2798; D)

USNATO 2812; E) STATE 109161; F) USNATO 2906

1. REF A REPORTED ON TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL'S CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY RUSH REGARDING FLANK SECURITY, AND THE LATTER'S STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD REASSESS THE PROBLEM AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE TURKS. MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER FOLLOWING POINTS IN MAKING ITS REASSESSMENT.

2. MISSION BELIEVES IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT OUR CURRENT
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INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLANK ISSUE WILL NOT LEAD TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. IT IS NOW NEARLY TWO MONTHS SINCE WE INTRODUCED U.S. FORMULATIONS INTO SPC (REF B). WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO FOCUS SPC DEBATE ON THESE FORMULATIONS SINCE THAT TIME. HOWEVER,

TURKS AND GREEKS CONSIDER THESE FORMULATIONS INSSUFICIENT, AND ONLY ALLY TO SUPPORT ANY U.S. FORMULATION OUTRIGHT WAS CANADA. FOCUS OF SPC DISCUSSION IS NOW CLEARLY ON A MORE SPECIFIC GUARENATEE OF UNDIMINISHED FLANK SECURITY, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE GREEK AND TUTCH PROPOSALS (REFS C AND D). MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE RETURN TO MORE GENERAL FORMULATION, AS SUGGESTED BY REF E, IS FEASIBLE COURSE AT THIS TIME.

3. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL'S CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY IS EVIDENCE ON INCREASING FLANK INTEREST IN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE, AS IS GREEK REP'S REPEATED STATEMENTS IN SPC THAT NATO SHOULD MEET AHG'S END-OF-MAY DEADLINE FOR GUIDANCE ON FLANK SECURITY. MISSION BELIEVES THAT CONTINUED U.S. ADHERENCE TO GENERAL FORMULATIONS WILL LEAD THE FLANK COUNTRIES TO DOUBT OUT INTERST IN MEETING THEIR VITAL SECURITY CONCERNS. THIS WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS NOT ONLY ON ALLIED COHESION AND ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE FLANK COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, IN VIEW OF THE ALLIED OBJECTIVES THAT MBFR ENSURE UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE (C-M(73)83).

4. MISSION THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. MOVE TOWARD A MORE SPECIFIC FORMULATION TO MEET FLANK CONCERNS. WE BELIEVE THESE CONCERNS CAN BE MET BY SOMETHING LESS THAN WHAT AMBASSADOR ESENBEL STATED AS THE TURKISH VIEW. GREEK REP HAS STATED IN SPC THAT GREECE HAS ABANDONED ITS EFFORT TO OBTAIN CONCRETE MEASURES OF THIS SORT, AND NOW SEEKS A SPECIFIC TREATY PROVISION TO PREVENT REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES TO FLANKS. TURKEY HAS OF COURSE NOT ABANDONED CONCRET MEASURES, BUT CAN AGREE TO GREEK PROPOSAL. WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO GIVE FURTHER STUDY TO BELGIAN REP'S REFORMULATION OF GREEK TEXT AS A MEANS OF MEETING FLANK CONCERNS, AS SUGGESTED BY (REF D).

5. GREEK TEXT OR BELGIAN REP'S REFORMULATION MAY WELL RAISE SOVIET DEMANDS FOR RECIPROCITY. EVEN IF SOVIET DEMANDS IN RESPONSE TO BELGIAN REP'S PROPOSAL WERE EXCESSIVE, REQUIRING ALLIES TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL, THE MISSION BELIEVES THE U.S. WOULD STILL BE BETTER OFF THAN IF THE PROPOSAL HAD NEVER
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BEEN INTRODUCED, IN TERMS OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE FLANK COUNTRIES AND OF ALLIED COHESION IN MBFR AND ELSEWHERE. VIENNA MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

6. GUIDANCE REQUESTED.
RUMSFELD

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To: STATE
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ATHENS
BONN
COPENHAGEN
OSLO
ROME

MBFR VIENNA
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

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